

About Senator Ben Cardin

Senator Ben Cardin has been called a "legislator's legislator" by the Washington Post. In more than 20 years in the Congress, Ben Cardin has become a national leader on health care, retirement security, the environment, homeland security and the economy.

First elected to the U.S. Senate in 2006, he currently serves on the Environment and Public Works, Finance, Foreign Relations, Budget and Small Business & Entrepreneurship committees. In the 112th Congress, he also serves as co-chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission).

As a member of the Finance Committee in the 112th Congress, Senator Cardin brings with him the expertise he developed in dealing with many of the same issues while serving for 17 years on the Ways & Means Committee in the U.S. House. During that time, many of his financial proposals were enacted into law, including: increasing the amount Americans can save for retirement, expanding Medicare to include preventive benefits and improving the foster care system.

During the 111th Congress, Senator Cardin supported the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and was successful in getting a guaranteed dental benefit included in the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program. The America Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) included his amendments to provide first-time homebuyers with an \$8,000 tax credit, and to raise the cap on surety bonds for small businesses from \$2 million to \$5 million. As a committed environmentalist, he also has introduced the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act to give states and local governments strong, new enforcement tools to restore the Bay.

From 1987-2006, he represented Maryland's 3rd Congressional District in the House of Representatives. From 1967-1986, Senator Cardin was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, serving as Speaker from 1979-1986.